

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

OMB-01 EB-07 ACDA-07 /085 W
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R 121218Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5922

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, IN, IR

SUBJ: IRANIAN PRIMIN'S VISIT

1. IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER AMIR ABBAS HOVEYDA ARRIVED IN NEW DELHI ON MAY 10 AND WAS MET AT PALAM AIRPORT BY MRS GANDHI, FOREIGN MINISTER Y.B. CHAVAN, OTHER SENIOR MINISTERS, AND THE THREE ARMED SERVICE CHIEFS. ON MAY 11 THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS CONFERRED ALONE FOR FORTY MINUTES IN MRS GANDHI'S PARLIAMENT HOUSE OFFICE BEFORE JOINING THEIR DELEGATIONS AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM WHERE TALKS CONTINUED FOR ANOTHER HOUR. THE TWO LEADERS MET AGAIN AT DINNER LAST NIGHT HOSTED BY HOVEYDA. CHAVAN AND FINANCE MINISTER C. SUBRAMANIAM HAD CALLED ON THE IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER DURING THE COURSE OF THE SECOND DAY. HOVEYDA ALSO CALLED ON INDIAN PRESIDENT

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AHMED.

2. FROM WHAT WE CAN PIECE TOGETHER FROM PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS INCLUDED A TOUR D'HORIZON ON WORLD AFFAIRS, BILATERAL ECONOMIC TIES AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION, REGIONAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS INCLUDING THE CURRENT TALKS WITH PAKISTAN, AND SUPER POWER RIVALRY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE INDIAN INTERNAL SITUATION AND THE EMERGENCY WERE ALSO DISCUSSED. ONE SENIOR INDIAN JOURNALIST WITH GOOD ACCESS TO PUBLIC OFFICIALS DESCRIBED THE TALKS AS CONCENTRATING ON THE CONCEPTUAL NATURE OF INDO-IRANIAN RELATIONS..." SO THE WHOLE ACCENT AT TODAY'S TALKS WAS ON GREATER UNDERSTANDING THROUGH MUTUAL GOODWILL AND CONFIDENCE ABOUT EACH OTHER'S POLICIES AND ASPIRATIONS... A NOTABLE FEATURE OF THESE TALKS TODAY WAS THE CANDID ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY BOTH INDIA AND IRAN THAT THEY HAD A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO WORK TOGETHER FOR STADILY ENLARGING THE AREAS OF NOT ONLY BILATERAL COOPERATION, BUT ALSO THE WELFARE OF OTHER PEOPLE IN THE REGION."

3. THE IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER SAID THERE WERE POSSIBILITIES TO IMMEDIATELY EXPAND COOPERATION IN THE MANUFACTURE OF ALUMINUM, CEMENT, SUGAR, AND OTHER CONSUMER GOODS. THE TWO SIDES REVIEWED EXISTING COOPERATIVE ECONOMIC ENDEAVORS. THE IRANIANS WERE REPORTEDLY CONVINCED THAT INDIA IS NOW IN A POSITION TO UNDERTAKE LONG TERM COMMITMENTS IN IRANIAN DEVELOPMENT. THE KUDREMUKEH IRON ORE PROJECT WAS ALSO DISCUSSED.

4. COMMENT: THE RHETORIC ACCOMPANYING THE MEETINGS TO DATE IS ALL SWEETNESS AND LIGHT, BUT NOTHING STARTLING OR NEW. HOVEYDA HAS A PRESS CONFERENCE LATER TODAY, MAY 12 WHICH MAY BE HELPFUL. WE SHALL ALSO BE REVIEWING THE VISIT WITH OUR MEA AND DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. TO DATE WE HAVE OBSERVED STRINGENT SECURITY PRECAUTIONS, PRESUMABLY DIRECTED AGAINST IRANIAN STUDENTS, IN THE AREAS OF HOVEYDA'S SCHEDULED APPEARANCES.

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